

Backcountry Camping

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore section of the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Lake Superior shoreline provides a spectacular place for backcountry hiking, camping, and relaxation. Hikers are rewarded with exhilarating views and opportunities for personal challenge and introspection. Backcountry camping regulations are different for winter, so please see the separate Ice Climbing & Winter Camping brochure.

Backcountry Permits

All hikers and sea kayakers camping in the backcountry must obtain a permit. A user fee of \$5 per person, per night is required when you pick up your permit. All permit fees are for up to 14 nights. There are no refunds. Individual campsites are available for camping parties of 1-6 people (2 tent or hammock limit). Groups of 7-20 people must camp in designated group sites.

Backcountry reservations may be made thirty days or more in advance. An advance reservation fee of \$15 is required when a reservation is made. Changes in reservations require an additional \$15 fee. Cash, check, Visa or MasterCard are accepted. There are **NO REFUNDS. PHONE RESERVATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.** Campsites may be reserved in advance by writing or faxing the park.

Permits may be obtained in person only within one day before your trip. Pick up your permit from either the NPS/USFS Visitor

Center in Munising (906-387-3700), or the Grand Sable Visitor Center in Grand Marais (906-494-2660, usually open mid-May through mid-September, call for exact dates). Phone for business hours.

If arriving after business hours, you must wait until the next day to obtain your permit and begin your trip. Only people in the camping party may obtain the permit. The Lakeshore backcountry is very popular, especially in July and August and holiday weekends. Advance planning and having an alternate itinerary is important when requesting a permit. Day hikers do not need a backcountry permit.

Backcountry Office
Pictured Rocks Natl. Lakeshore
P.O. Box 40
Munising, MI 49862
906-387-3700
FAX: 906-387-4457

Backcountry Regulations

Be sure to read the accompanying Backcountry Regulations and Mileage Chart available as a companion to this brochure.

For Your Safety and Enjoyment

Come prepared for a variety of weather, insects, and terrain. The Pictured Rocks cliffs are spectacular but can be dangerous to the careless hiker. Fifteen miles of the North Country Trail are atop 50-200 foot high cliffs. Cliff tops are covered with loose sand and gravel. Unsupported overhangs of soft sandstone are common. **FOR YOUR SAFETY, STAY AWAY FROM THE CLIFF EDGE.**

The weather near Lake Superior is very changeable. Summers are often warm, but be prepared for cool, rainy, windy weather. Hypothermia can occur at any time—know the symptoms. Use a layered clothing

system. You may encounter bears and other wildlife in the backcountry. Keep a clean camp and exercise caution. Store food in lockers or hang on food poles. Black flies, mosquitos, and stable flies can be a nuisance between late May and September. Long pants and shirts and insect repellent are recommended.

The Lakeshore is closed to hunting April 1 to Labor Day, but is open to hunting the rest of the year during small and large game seasons. Wear blaze orange or bright colors if you are concerned about being seen by hunters.

Backcountry Sanitation

Only water obtained from park water systems can be assumed safe to drink. All water from streams, lakes, or other natural sources must be boiled for one full minute or filtered through a one micron filter before it is used. Wash yourself, dishes, and clothing at least 100 feet from a lake campsite, trail, or stream.

Backcountry toilets are available at Mosquito and Chapel Beach campgrounds. Please do not throw trash in backcountry toilets. To dispose of human waste at other locations, select a spot at least 100 feet from any trail, campsite, or water. Dig a shallow hole 3 to 6 inches deep. Bury waste and paper. Groups should establish a communal privy and cover it after the last use.

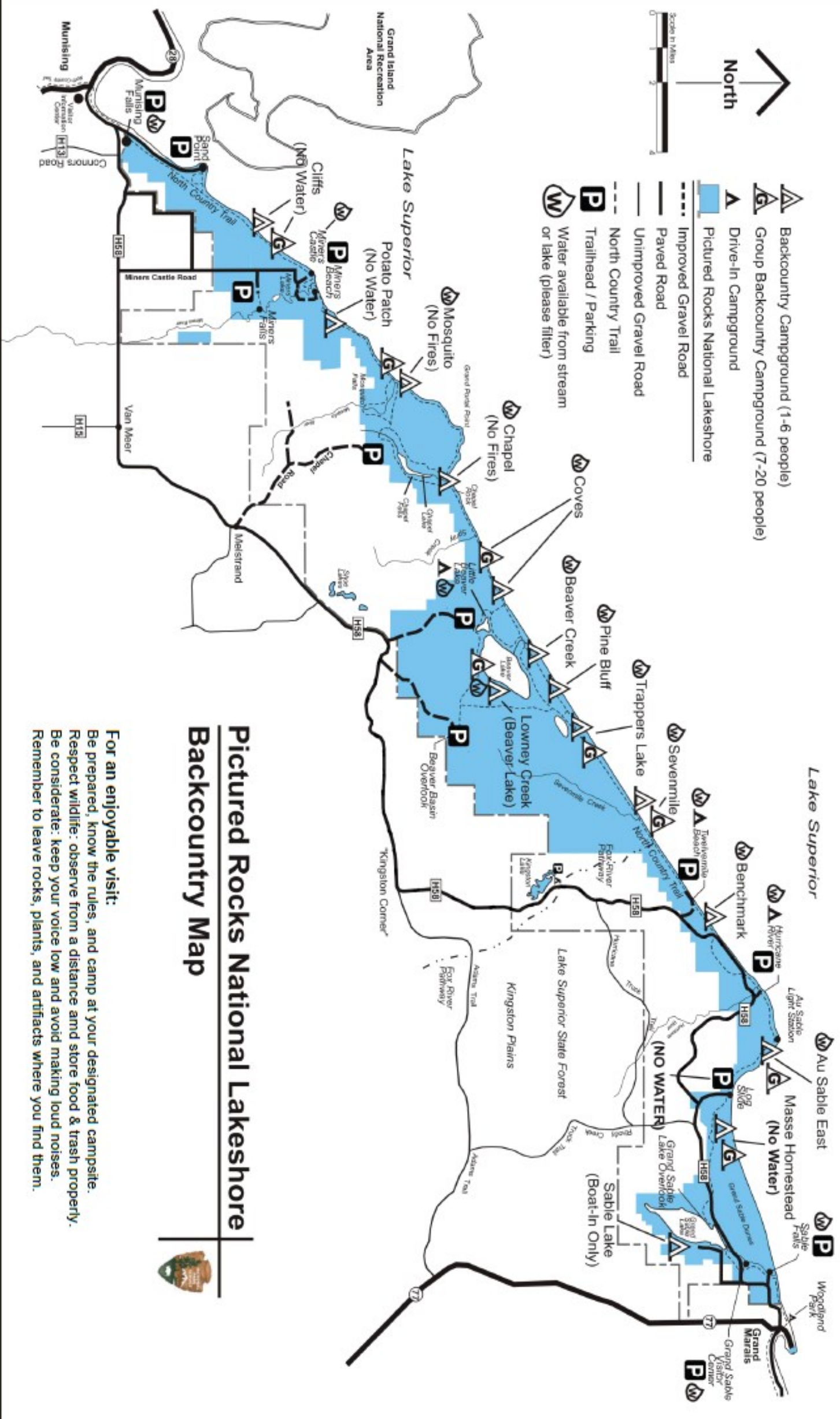


Please follow Leave No Trace camping ethics.

Public Transportation

ALTRAN—Alger County Transit
Phone: 906-387-4845
Web: www.altranbus.com/backpack.html

Check the park’s website for any authorized shuttle services: www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/shuttle-service.htm



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Backcountry Map

For an enjoyable visit:
Be prepared, know the rules, and camp at your designated campsite.
Respect wildlife: observe from a distance and store food & trash properly.
Be considerate: keep your voice low and avoid making loud noises.
Remember to leave rocks, plants, and artifacts where you find them.